

23. (Amended) A near equilibrium-dried bioactive glass comprising, by weight %:

SiO ₂	-	40 - 90
CaO	-	4 - 45
Na ₂ O	-	0 - 20
P ₂ O ₅	-	2 - 10
CaF ₂	-	0 - 25
B ₂ O ₃	-	0 - 10

and [a surface area greater than the non-near equilibrium-dried bioactive glass having an identical composition] an average pore diameter of about 30 angstroms to about 180 angstroms.

REMARKS

The amendments discussed at the interview are set forth above. Upon entry of the present Amendment, Claims 14-17 and 23-26 will be pending in the present application.

As discussed at the interview, the present claims are allowable over the art of record. Also, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are addressed as follows. Claim 18 has been canceled. The term "near equilibrium drying" means drying under the conditions at least above about 50% humidity and more preferably near the two phase boundaries in the phase diagram at the temperature and pressure sufficient to yield a bioactive glass. Near equilibrium drying is also "drying under the conditions near the phase boundary of water, methanol, ethanol, acetone, liquid CO₂, benzene or other liquid used in a drying chamber." See Specification page 7, lines 15-20.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record.